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**Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Expedited Procedure – Art Unit 1636**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

BLOOM *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/227,742

Filed: January 8, 1999

For: **Method for Increasing Viability
and Transformation Efficiency of
Bacteria During Storage at Low
Temperatures**

Confirmation No.: 7763

Art Unit: 1636

Examiner: Leffers, G.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4770003/RWE/FRC

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **December 16, 2003**, (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 20031214), Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks.

This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.